

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for assaying ^{multiple} N samples, wherein N is greater than or equal to 2, said ^{multiple} samples each containing a single compound to be tested, said method comprising:

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- a) providing N populations of carrier beads wherein the carrier beads of each population comprise a detectable label for distinguishing the carrier beads of each population from the carrier beads of every other population, and
a ~~reagent~~reactant bound thereto,
wherein said reactant comprises a first component of a specific binding pair, and
said ~~reagent~~reactant being the same for all of said carrier beads ~~and for~~in all of said N populations;
- b) dispensing one distinguishable population of said N populations of carrier beads into a separate, corresponding one of N different reaction vessels, so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N populations, and performing said dispensing for each population of said N populations;
- c) dispensing one of said N samples into a separate, corresponding one of said N different reaction vessels, so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N samples and one of said N populations, and performing said dispensing for each sample of said N samples;
- d) providing in a fluid medium, in each of said N different reaction

vessels, ~~additional reagents~~ for performing ~~ana~~ binding assay and wherein the ~~same~~ said ~~additional reagents~~ are ~~provided in the same~~ for all of said N different reaction vessels, ~~and wherein one of said additional reagents or said reagent~~ bound to said carrier bead, being a second component of said binding pair and ^{A-*} wherein said second component carries a signal moiety that is partitioned between said carrier beads and said fluid medium, under conditions such that a portion of said signal moiety is caused to be bound to said first component during said assay, in each one of said N different reaction vessels; and ~~performing said assay on all of said N different reaction vessels;~~

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- e) combining the contents of said N different reaction vessels to form a mixture, and
 - f) analyzing the mixture by flow cytometry

wherein

- i) measurement of said signal moiety indicates [✓] at least one of the following:
presence or absence of said compound to be tested, concentration of said compound to be tested, and biological activity of said compound to be tested;
and
- ii) measurement of said detectable label indicates the sample containing said ^{identifies?} compound to be tested.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, wherein N is 80 – 100,000.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, wherein N is from 80 to 4000.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said reactant or reagent, *AB not clear*
~~that is bound to said carrier bead, of the reagents recited in step d), is provided on said~~
~~carrier beads, which are beads is pre-coated with said reagent for performing the assay on~~
said carrier beads.

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Claim 7 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detectable label comprises at least one fluorescent dye.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said detectable label comprises an electronic label.

Claim 9 (previously amended): The method of claim 1, wherein said signal moiety is a fluorescent dye.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (new): A method for assaying N samples, wherein N is greater than or equal to 2, said samples each containing a single compound to be tested, said method comprising:

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- a) providing N populations of carrier beads wherein the carrier beads of each population comprise a detectable label for distinguishing the carrier beads of each population from the carrier beads of every other population, and a reagent bound thereto, said reagent being the same for said carrier beads in all of said N populations;
- b) dispensing one distinguishable population of said N populations of carrier beads into a separate, corresponding one of N different reaction vessels, so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N populations, and performing said dispensing for each population of said N populations;
- c) dispensing one of said N samples into a separate, corresponding one of said N different reaction vessels so that said one of N different reaction vessels contains one of said N samples and one of said N populations, and performing said dispensing for each sample of said N samples;
- d) combining in a fluid medium, in each of said N different reaction vessels additional reagents for performing an assay wherein said additional reagents are the same for all said N reaction vessels, and wherein one of said additional reagents or said reagent bound to said carrier bead carries a signal moiety, under conditions such that a portion of said signal moiety is caused to be partitioned between said carrier beads and said fluid medium during said assay, in each one of said N different reaction vessels;
- e) combining the contents of said N different reaction vessels to form a mixture, and
- f) analyzing the mixture by flow cytometry;

wherein

- i) measurement of said signal moiety indicates at least one of the following:
presence or absence of said compound to be tested, concentration of said compound to be tested, and biological activity of said compound to be tested; and
- ii) measurement of said detectable label ^{identifies} indicates the sample containing said compound to be tested.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein N is 80 – 100,000.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein N is from 80 to 4000.

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein said ^{NAB}reactant or reagent, bound to said carrier beads is pre-coated on said carrier beads.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein said detectable label comprises at least one fluorescent dye.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein said detectable label comprises an electronic label.

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein said signal moiety is a fluorescent dye.
